

Visit the Nature Store @ Visitor Center for new merch!



JANUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER

friends of
LAGUNA ATASCOSA
national wildlife refuge

IN THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming events
Creature feature
Photoshoots
Recaps



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JANUARY EVENTS

Weekly Saturday Breakfast with the Birds 8 AM

Weekly Saturday Bike Ride to Osprey Overlook
10 AM-12 PM

1/6/23 Wild Friends Storytime

11 AM-12 PM

1/9/23 Naturally Native Garden Team

9 AM-11 AM

1/10/23 Coffee with the Birds Membership

Social 9-10 AM

1/18/23 Wild Friends Storytime LV Library

5-7 PM

1/19/23 Friends Science Series-Tracks, Scat,
Skins, and Skulls 9 AM-12 PM

1/19/23 LANWR presentation STEC 6 PM

1/28/23 Bike the Bahia 9 AM-12 PM





Creature Feature: Tropical Parula

This little warbler was all the rage last month, as dedicated birders flocked to the refuge in hopes of sighting the rare Tropical Parula that was photographed at our popular bird blind. A common resident of the tropics in Northern Mexico and as far south as Argentina, this little bird has all but vanished from the Rio Grande Valley, making each sighting a memorable experience as it occasionally ventures into our area during the winter months. They are brilliantly colored, with a blueish gray and olive colored back and a bright yellow throat and chest. Feeding off a steady diet of insects, the Tropical Parula spends most of its time in the dense forest canopy, while at times enjoying a cool bath in some of our water features. They prefer to nest in Spanish moss deep in heavily wooded oak forests, while they will also build their nests in epiphytes such as orchids or climbing cacti. The female broods three to four eggs in a hollowed out nest, and the male is not significantly involved in the chick rearing process. If you are fortunate enough to spot one of these beauties, you will not likely forget the amazing experience. This photo was captured by Mary Volz at our bird blind!



Impressive Wildlife Photoshoots

Check out these amazing photos of a bobcat and coyote taken by Lanis Hicks at the refuge! Throughout the winter months, bobcat and coyote sightings are becoming more and more common, even during daylight hours. Other recent sightings have included the Tropical Parula, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Olive Sparrow. We have such a huge diversity of wildlife, and we always welcome new photo submissions. You can email your photos to naturestore@flanwr.org for a chance to be featured in one of our future **newsletters**.



Christmas at the South Texas Ecotourism Center

Friends was invited to attend the Christmas at the STEC on December 8. This event featured Christmas performances by the Laguna Madre Christian Academy and the Point Isabel Independent School District as well as Christmas-themed crafts. Friends had a booth where we made cardinal handprint Christmas cards. It was a great time and we thank the STEC for inviting us to this event.



Grant for Wild Friends Storytime

This month Friends received the Barbara J. Johnston Educational Grant from the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Lambda Eta Chapter for our Wild Friends Storytime Program! With these funds, we will be purchasing books for giveaways to participants and expanding this event to the Laguna Vista Public Library. The Wild Friends Storytime at the Laguna Atascosa Visitor's Center is the first Friday of the month at 11 am, and the storytime at the Laguna Vista Public Library is the third Wednesday of the month at 5 pm. Hope to see you there!



Wild Friends Storytime

Although we only had one participant, our storytime was so much fun! We read a book about baby owls and created our own feathery friends craft to take home. Be on the lookout for the next storytime on January 6!

OPERATIONAL HOURS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Hunt Season is here! Please check the [Refuge website](#) for closures before heading out.

Visitor's Center

Wednesday - Friday
7:00am-2:00pm

Nature Store

Tuesday - Saturday
8:00am-4:00pm

Refuge Access

Sunday - Saturday
Sunrise to Sunset

SUPPORT US

Save Texas Ocelots
License Plates



The Nature Store @ Laguna Atascosa

GO SHOPPING!

Adopt an Ocelot





Help us keep our birds fed this chilly Christmas season! We accept donations of citrus and bird seed. Check out our wish list at <http://flanwr.org/wish-list>

Board of Directors
2021 - 2022

OFFICERS

President

Robert Severson

Vice President

Pete Moore

Secretary

Joyce Hamilton

Treasurer

Dr. Thomas deMaar

MEMBERS

Michelle Cano

Larry Crow

Dr. Greg Garcia

Dr. Christopher Gabler

Dr. Sharon Wilcox

David Lohse

Shane Wilson

Cathy Harrington

STAFF

Executive Director

Nicole Ekstrom

Bookstore Manager

Michaela Wiersema

Photo: Credits

Greg Lasley, Lanis Hicks, ebird

This message was sent to you by Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

Copyright © Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge

All rights reserved.



22688 Buena Vista Blvd.
Los Fresnos, TX 78578

956-748-3607, ext.112

<http://www.flanwr.org>

friends@flanwr.org